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REPORT
TO THE
GOVERNORS
OF THE
Veterinary College
OF
LONDON.

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AND
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LIGHT HORSE VOLUNTEERS.

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REPORT

ON THE

PROGRESS OF

THE

WELL-COME TRUST

FOR THE YEAR 1905



HAVING been directed by the Annual General Meeting of the Governors of the Veterinary College, held last year, to give a Report of my Visits to the Continental Veterinary Schools, the following was laid before them, read by the President, and is now, respectfully addressed to the Subscribers in general.

November 1818.



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REPORT.

THE return of Peace having opened a free communication with the Continent, I became desirous of visiting the various Veterinary Schools which had been established at a much earlier period than our own; and of endeavouring to ascertain the state of Veterinary Science, or at least as much as a cursory visit to each of them would admit; commencing with the earliest formed Establishment at Lyons*. With that view I proceeded there direct, in November 1815, and being favoured with a letter to the Mayor of that city, (by Sir Thomas Webbe, one of our earliest Subscribers,) I was readily introduced, by the same means, to the Di-

* Opened January 1, 1762.

rector of the School; and kindly permitted to view the Museum, and other parts of the Institution, by repeated visits.

The Museum contained many preparations of great utility and novelty, appertaining to the Veterinary Art; such as full-sized muscular Subjects, the same with the Blood Vessels injected; and also the Brain and Nervous System, entirely separated from other parts, in a fine state of preservation. The last are difficult to prepare, and not to be procured.

Many things of a minor description, but equally useful, are amongst the Collection; and an assortment of Shoes, of various Countries.

The Infirmary Stables are good of their kind, but not extensive; paved and drained in the ordinary way, and ventilated by the windows only. There were very few Patients in

them, and those ordinary cases. There are appropriate places for other Domestic Animals ; as Dogs, &c. The Forge is commodious, and well adapted for Shoeing Horses, and instructing the Pupils in the art of making and putting on Shoes, all which is superintended by a Director of that particular branch of the Art, who gives manual Instructions.

A Botanical Garden is attached to the School, Lectures are given on Botany, and also on Chemistry, in a room adjoining a Laboratory.

The Theatre of Anatomy is capable of containing about one hundred Pupils, where the Lectures are delivered on that subject, and on Veterinary Surgery and Diseases. The Dissecting Room is adjacent, and well suited to the purpose.

In the rear of the buildings is a yard and

paddock, which are occasionally used for the purpose of turning Horses out.

Mons. Bredin, the Director, favoured me with specimens of Shoes, as used at the School, several Tracts on Veterinary Subjects, and letters of introduction to the Inspector and Professor of Anatomy, of the School near Paris.

Arriving at Paris with a letter to Mons. Huzard, Inspector of the French Veterinary Schools, he most obligingly facilitated the object of my journey, by permitting his son to accompany me in a visit to the School, situated at Alfort, about four miles from Paris; and devoted a whole day to inquiry and inspection of that extensive Establishment, which is now the principal school* of France.

* It was opened in 1766.

The remarks relating to the several departments and arrangement in the Lyons School, apply also to this, but which is in a more improved and complete state; particularly in regard to the Museum, which occupies three large apartments; the upper one of which is a complete and extensive library on Veterinary Science, Natural History, Agriculture, &c. A resident librarian has the charge of it.

A powerful electrical apparatus is fitting up for medical purposes. Instruments and implements of all kinds are kept as patterns.

In addition to the lectures delivered at the Lyon's School, here are given agriculture, rural œconomy, and medical jurisprudence. The latter I consider very important, and might be attended with great advantages, in this Country particularly.

Stallions are also kept at the expence of

Government, and annually sent into the provinces, in order to propagate their respective races. With the same intention Asses are also kept to produce Mules; which are much used in some provinces.

The Infirmary Stables and places for Domestic Animals are more extensive than at Lyons, and the arrangement more select.

The Forge and its appurtenances afford better opportunities for instruction in shoeing, and operations in that branch. A small portable Forge is also kept, to be removed to any part of the Stables where its use is required. This appears to be exceedingly useful in urgent cases, and worth adopting.

A field of about six acres is set apart for Agricultural experiments. It was under a course of winter fallow.

I was obligingly presented with specimens of various kinds of Shoes employed at the Schools, and also with works on Anatomy, Medicine, Surgery, and other subjects, relative to the Veterinary Art. Some instruments of a novel kind I also procured.

The Royal Stables at Paris are well-constructed buildings, kept in good order, paved, drained, and ventilated, like the School Stables. The Horses do not stand on litter during the day, as is customary in most stables in this country. They appear capable of containing about two hundred Horses. An Infirmary Stable and Forge is attached. There were four or five patients, ordinary casualties, but none sick. All the Horses are shod upon the plan of the Veterinary Schools, under the superintendence of a resident Veterinary Surgeon.

The French Cavalry is also shod upon the same plan.

PART II.

HAVING derived great satisfaction, and I trust, improvement, in Veterinary knowledge by the visit to the French Veterinary Schools, I had leave granted, by the general meeting in May 1816, to proceed to those of Germany; which I accordingly did, in July following, and arrived at Vienna in August, with a letter to Lord Stewart, (Ambassador at the Court of Vienna), from Captain Bamford, Adjutant of the Light Horse Volunteers, which procured me an introduction to Professor Waldinger, at that School*.

* Established by the late Emperor, Joseph the Second.

The Theatre of Anatomy, Museum, and means of Theoretical Instruction, are not so extensive as at Paris; but there is great scope for practice: the Stables and other accommodations being calculated to receive a considerable number of patients. All of which were occupied during the time I remained there; where I had the opportunity of seeing some diseases peculiar to the season, which was then hot* and dry. Those were lamenesses, called fever in the feet, and lethargic attacks.

The lameness was treated in a similar manner to what is practised in this country, but with the addition of being turned in a paddock, where the grass was high and kept watered, and well shaded with trees. The Horses with lethargy were also kept in the paddocks

* The range of Farenheit's Thermometer was from 72° to 88° in the shade, while I remained at Vienna.

under the trees, for the advantage of cool air : I also observed a shower-bath, under which the head is often placed : their medical treatment was of an opposite nature to what is practised in this country. From the numbers that were convalescent, it appeared more successful, although it does not accord with our general theory of that disease.

The digestive organs and liver are considered as the seat of the disease, and the vertigo coma, or lethargic affections, as merely symptomatic. The practice was consonant to their theory, and, as before stated, successful.

The Pupils are taught shoeing, practically, at the forge.

The Shoes employed differ from our own, and those of the French School. Professor Waldinger favoured me with patterns. Books on the Veterinary Art I procured at the School.

The Stables* are not of the first order, but roomy, and floored with wood; a common practice in Germany. It is preferred to any kind of pavement, for its elasticity to the feet.

The other accommodations are very good; such as box stalls, and places for other domestic animals. The Pharmacy and other offices are well arranged.

The Stables have no other means of ventilation but by the windows; some of which open above the Horses' heads; the plan of draining is very good. The litter is removed during the day, unless when required for particular cases.

There is also a very old hermaphrodite

* The Buildings are considerably delapidated, and a grant was expected soon to re-build the whole premises. They are constructed of wood.

Horse, which partakes mostly of the male, of which it appears to be a malformation.

The Imperial Stable is a fine spacious building, capable of containing several hundred Horses. It is floored with wood, well drained and ventilated.

An Infirmary is attached, but there were no patients in it.

There is also a Forge, and a good contrivance to suspend a restive Horse for shoeing, or others, for particular operations. The Horses are shod upon the School plan, and the Cavalry also.

Prince Charles's Stables are exceedingly good as a model, on a small scale; the floor is peculiar, wooden piles or pieces, cut out of a rounded figure, like large paving stones. Well drained and ventilated.

Arriving at Prague, I found nothing particularly interesting on Veterinary subjects, to detain me; therefore proceeded on to Dresden, at which city there is no School; the Pupils go to learn the profession at Vienna, Berlin or Hanover.

The Royal Stables are, however, worth visiting; the Coach-Horse Stable is probably the best drained of any yet seen; a covered streamlet of water* passing down the centre, which keeps it always clean and sweet. They are also well ventilated, lofty, light, and spacious, and floored with wood.

The Saddle Horses work unshod from Spring until Autumn, when the wet season commences. Their feet are in a fine state of preservation in

* A branch of a rivulet, called the Weser, flowing into the Elbe close by.

consequence. There were none sick or lame. I procured Saxon Shoes at the King's Forge.

The kennel of Boar Hounds is worth attention, to observe the variety of arrangement in every respect ; breeding, &c.

I arrived at Berlin late in August, with a letter of introduction, from the Earl of Harrowby to Mr. Rose, (Envoy at the Court of Berlin), who accompanied me to the Veterinary School*, and passed several hours in viewing the greatest part of the establishment.

* Established by the late King, Frederic II.

The Theatre of Anatomy, Museum, and Dissecting Rooms, form one detached building, probably the most ornamental, handsome, and commodious structure of the kind in Europe. It bears some resemblance to our late Theatre, and the new one at St. Thomas's Hospital, in Southwark.

The Museum is less extensive than at Paris, but larger than that of Vienna, and contains some novelties which they do not possess. It has a complete series of skeletons, down to the smallest quadruped. Such as the Horse, Ox, Sheep, Dog, &c. &c.; also Birds, and the stuffed skin of an African Horse, which had not the slightest appearance of a single hair upon it. It is of a dun colour, and is no doubt a particular genus.

There is a good collection of Shoes of different countries. Professor Nauman presented me with some specimens of those used at the School.

The Stables are well constructed, paved, drained, and ventilated.

The Box Stalls, and places for other Domestic Animals, are well arranged. Litter is not used during the day, but sand strewed under the Horses: an excellent plan for cleanliness, and particularly to be recommended.

The Stables were full of patients of all descriptions; several lame and lethargic, the same as at Vienna.

The Practice, with a little variation, similar to that at Vienna. There was also a successful recovery of lock jaw, by a different remedy from what we practice*.

* A method is pursued of allotting to the care of each Pupil one or more Patients; a highly useful plan, and particularly worthy imitation in our own Institution.

A Riding-house is attached to the School, for the instruction of Pupils intended for the army; who receive pay from Government upon entrance.

The Forge is well conducted, and the Pupils manually instructed by the Director. The means of securing restive Horses for Shoeing, or operations, are very ingenious, and worthy of imitation.

The King's Horses are all shod at the School Forge. The Cavalry is also shod upon the same plan.

There is a beautifully constructed Warm and Vapour Bath, with a room adjoining, capable of being heated by a stove, to receive the Patients after bathing.

An ingenious hydraulic machine supplies

either hot or cold water, as the thermometer indicates.

There is likewise an excellent Cold Bath, supplied by a branch from the River Spree, passing through the premises.

A water engine is kept in use for Medical purposes, and applied in Lethargic cases particularly.

There is an excellent Ice-House for Medical purposes. Ice was said to be used in some Diseases, successfully, wherein we consider it injurious.

A room is fitted up with the most powerful electrical apparatus that, probably, was ever constructed; said to be successfully employed in various Diseases: such as Paralytic attacks, Tetanus or Lock Jaw, Cataract, and Gutta Serena. (Paralysis of the Optic Nerves.)

The Pharmacy and other offices are well arranged.

There is a good Botanical Garden, and several Grass Paddocks, well shaded with trees. A branch from the Spree amply supplying them with water. Some of the Patients were turned out.

Near the Botanical Garden there is an excellent structure for drying Preparations, and bleaching Bones. It is open frame work, upon the principle of an aviary.

There is an Hermaphrodite Horse, twenty-six years of age, kept at this School: it is similar to that at Vienna, and has tushes like a Stallion.

The Royal Stables are handsome buildings, and kept in excellent order. They are well

paved and ventilated, and Sand used under the Horses, in the day time.

They adjoin the Spree, into which a paved slope enables them to cold bathe, or wash the Horses at any time.

There were no Sick or Lamé Horses at the time of my visit.

The Royal Barracks are kept in similar order.

The Ventilators admit of being opened and shut at pleasure. In some instances the front of the Stalls are floored with wood, to give elasticity to the fore feet.

Before quitting Berlin, I procured all the Works of the existing Professors, and several others. Also some useful Instruments for relieving Sheep and Cattle, when afflicted with

an over distention of the stomach, from gas being evolved, called Hoven *. They are very successfully employed in Germany.

Arriving at Hanover, I called upon the Assistant Professor, Houseman, whom I had seen in England. Was introduced to Professor Havemann, of the Veterinary School †, and shewn the Museum, which is upon a small scale, but very useful. He obligingly answered all my inquiries, and communicated his opinions on several subjects with great clearness, as to some

* I have since sent several into the country to be made trial of.

† Established by his present Majesty for the Electorate, now Kingdom of Hanover.

doubtful points in Physiology. He has a good collection of the Shoes of different Countries.

The Assistant Professor presented me with some patterns of those in use.

The Infirmary Stables were much delapidated during the War, by being occupied by foreign Cavalry. There were no Patients in them, so that the opportunities for Practice is limited to the King's Stables, and out Patients.

The Royal Stud is shod at the School Forge.

The Royal Stables, which will contain between two and three hundred horses, are near the School, and are fine Buildings; well constructed, light, airy, spacious, clean, and well ventilated. The windows have canvas shades, which I have not observed in other Stables: doubtless an advantage, under a bright sun, and in hot weather.

Before quitting Hanover, I procured some useful Veterinary Works and Instruments.

In Holland * there is no Veterinary School but by observations and inquiries I derived some useful practical information ; and brought home several specimens of various kinds of Shoes, for healthy and diseased feet.

The Royal Stables at the Hague are well constructed, and in fine order. Sand is used in the Stalls in the day time ; they are well paved, drained, and ventilated. The heads of the Stalls, and bottoms of the Mangers, being lined with glazed Dutch Tiles, are kept in the cleanest state, with very little trouble.

In several other Stables I observed a similar arrangement.

* From this and some other countries, where there are no Veterinary Schools, Pupils go to those of France and Germany.

At Brussels nothing particularly worthy notice appeared, but the effectual and simple manner of draining one large Barrack Stable, capable of containing about two hundred Horses. It is well worth consideration and trial in a public Establishment.

WM. SEWELL,

Assistant Professor.



